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of interpretation, which always involves more or less subjectivism. The fields of knowledge opened up in this volume are such as the following: sacred books in general, the canon, translations and revisions of the Bible, textual criticism, higher criticism, inspiration, archaeology, authority, and influence of the Bible. Brief lists of books for further reading upon each of the nineteen chapters are appended. The presentation of the material is made attractive and interesting and the whole treatment is religiously oriented. Every Sunday-school teacher and religious worker should read this book as a beginning in the important task of becoming intelligently religious.

**Sermons Preached in Westminster Abbey.** By R. H. Charles. London: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. x+245. 5s.

Dean Charles has gathered here eighteen sermons preached in Westminster Abbey since the early months of 1914. They are not without reflection of the war, especially in an impetuous attack upon the United States for her neutral position, which is permitted to stand with a footnote in explanation. On the whole, however, the sermons move in the world of the scholar and the observer of spiritual facts without especial reference to their relation to the contemporary situation. The sermons are clear and earnest. They are almost entirely without illustration or any form of popular appeal. They move straight on in the discussion of their themes and demand close attention to follow their logical movement. Such a discourse as No. 14 (the sermons have no titles) on the use of the parable by Jesus cannot be brought into the catalogue of sermons by any definition. It is a technical study adapted to a meeting of scholars and ministers. The author does not seem to us to interpret Isa. 6:9, 10 accurately; Dr. George Adam Smith has done it far better. Sermon No. 3 is so reminiscent of Bushnell's "Unconscious Influence" as to miss what would be otherwise a strong discourse. The religious insight of Dean Charles is keen and his interpretation of the phenomena of the spiritual life is clarifying.

**The Book of Joy.** By John T. Faris. New York: Doran, 1917. Pp. 284. \$1.00.

Dr. Faris has already published four volumes of a similar character touching the great themes of the religious life. He has a wide acquaintance with contemporary literature and experience, from which he draws his illustrations. These are almost invariably pertinent and convincing. This is a wholesome book for all sorts of readers, a good dollar's worth to make one courageous in all sorts of weather. Dan Crawford, Alice Freeman Palmer, and a small host

of equally splendid human beings are in the book and so it is worth while.

**Studies in the Parables of Jesus.** By Halford E. Luccock. New York: Abingdon Press, 1917. Pp. 131. \$0.50.

This volume is designed as a textbook for "Study Courses for Adult Classes, Preparatory Schools, and Advanced Groups in Weekday Religious Instruction." There are thirteen studies, apparently planned to cover the studies of a three months' period. The text is fully printed; a clear explanation of it is given; then follow questions and subjects for reflection and discussion. Mr. Luccock succeeds in hitting the central truth in the parable; he keeps unnecessary details in their proper place; he suggests as much as he declares. This is an excellent book on the subject and ought to be widely used.

**Noontime Messages in a College Chapel.** By Twenty-five Well-known Preachers. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1917. Pp. viii+181. \$1.25.

There is one contributor to this interesting volume who has no "Rev." before his name, George W. Coleman. All the others are ministers near Boston. Mr. Coleman prints a prayer at the beginning of each of his addresses. These are not "sermons" in the literal sense of the word and are fittingly called "messages." In general they are terse, clear, and timely. The quality is exceedingly uneven. There are flashes of insight and counsel that must remain with the students who heard the messages; take this from Dr. Ambrose White Vernon, "If a man strikes *you*, do not strike back; if a man strikes your *ideal*, then out with the whip!" Dean Hodges and Rev. Raymond Calkins make clear-cut statements of truth. We found ourselves comparing this volume with the familiar "Mornings in the College Chapel," by Francis G. Peabody and appreciating more than ever the wonderful force and beauty of those Harvard masterpieces, which these later utterances but distantly approach.

**The Land of Enough.** By Charles E. Jefferson. New York: Crowell, 1917. Pp. 60. \$0.50.

Dr. Jefferson's Christmas booklet is the story of a brother and sister who were never quite satisfied with what they had and one of whom, the sister, woke up in a land where there were no unsatisfied desires. Her misery may be imagined, for it was Christmas and Christmas is not a matter of gifts but is an affair of the spirit. She was happy at length when she came back to the old world where nobody is perfectly satisfied and there is a chance